

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
NOTICE OF FEDERAL INTEREST IN AN OIL POLLUTION DISCHARGE

September 23, 2016

Ms. Meg Blackwood
Senior Attorney
Colonial Pipeline Company
1185 Sanctuary Parkway, Suite 100
Alpharetta, Georgia 30009-4765

Re: Follow up Written Notice of Federal Interest in an Oil Pollution Discharge at the Pelham Pipeline Spill near Helena, Alabama

This letter is a written follow-up to a verbal Notice of Federal Interest issued to the Colonial Pipeline Company (CPC) on the evening of September 9, 2016.

This letter is to inform you that a discharge of gasoline occurred from Colonial Pipeline Line 1 at latitude 33.235026, -86.915911. The discharge flowed down the hillside into a retention pond. The pond is hydraulically connected via a pipe to another pond which discharges directly into Peel Creek. Peel Creek discharges into the Cahaba River, which discharges into the Alabama River, which discharges into the Mobile River, which discharges into Mobile Bay. The discharge of a prohibited quantity of oil is a violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA). Under the OPA, the responsible party is liable for clean-up costs and damages resulting from the incident. A responsible party is the owner, operator, or person in charge of a facility or vessel from which the oil is discharged or poses a threat of discharge.

As the responsible party, you should clean up the discharged oil and/or take other actions to prevent or mitigate or minimize the discharge of oil. If you do not act, the United States may respond for you and take such actions that are necessary to remove the discharged oil or to minimize or mitigate the threat. **The U.S. costs to respond to this incident will be billed to, and recovered from, the responsible party.**

You are advised that a responsible party may lose the opportunity to limit their liability for cleanup under OPA if the responsible party fails or refuses to provide all reasonable cooperation and assistance requested by the responsible official in connection with response activities. A responsible party who fails to comply with an On-Scene Coordinator's (OSC) verbal or written directive to remove the discharge or to an administrative order to protect the public health and welfare may be subject to additional penalties. Under the CWA, a civil penalty can amount up to \$37,500 per day of violation or up to three times the costs incurred by the Oil Spill Liability

Trust Fund to conduct response actions.

A response is being done properly if it is done in accordance with federal and state statutes and regulations and in accordance with the criteria of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). If you undertake the response action, the adequacy of such action shall be evaluated by the OSC. Under the CWA, a responsible party could also be liable for penalties for discharges of oil which enter any navigable waters of the United States and adjoining shorelines. These penalties would be in addition to penalties and liability for failure to properly remove the discharge. A responsible party's actions may be taken into account in determining the amount of any penalty assessed as a result of the incident.

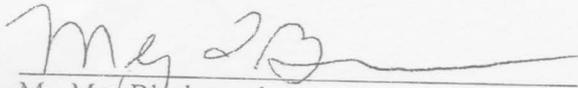
If you have any questions regarding this incident, please contact me at (404) 562-8278 or via email at berry.chuck@epa.gov.

Respectfully,



Chuck Berry
On Scene Coordinator (OSC)
U.S. EPA Region 4

Acknowledgement of Receipt



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